Place of functioning of Head District Post Office at Begusarai in Bihar

118. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the head post office of Begusarai district in Bihar is functioning in a small rented accommodation for the last many decades though the number of employees and volume work have increased manifold;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new building of Head Post Office of Begusarai could not be constructed because the State Government of Bihar has refused to allot land for that purpose;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken to get the land allotted; and

(e) by when government propose to provide a suitable new building for the Head Post Office at Begusarai in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The area available in the rented building for the Head Post Office is 7336.59 sq. ft. against assessed requirement of 10,300 sq. ft.

(c) and (d) The Commissioner Darbhanga, Bihar State, has been requested for allotment of land for construction of new Head Post Office building.

(e) The construction of building for Begusarai Head Post Office can be taken up after the land is acquired by the Department.

Newsitem regarding exodus of Staff from C-DOT

119. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the news report which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 8th April, 1993 under the caption "C-DOT is hit by brain drain';

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to prevent brain drain in the C-DOT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On an average about 20% of the Engineers leave C-DOT every year which is made up by new recruitment.

Some benefits to the staff within the existing guidelines are also under the consideration of the Government.

Phone tariff

120. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in The Times of India dated 13th April, 1993 captioned "Phone Tariff hike likely";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Minister has characterise the telephone tariff in India as the lowest;

(c) whether Government propose to raise the telephone tariff;

(d) what was the comparison made, giving details of tariff of other countries; and

(e) whether Government propose to take into account the deteriorating phone service while raising the tariffs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The telephone tariff in India is low when compared to many other countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comparison was made with reference to the call charges rental for telephones and international subscriber dialled calls from other countries to India.

(c) The Telecom. Services have not been deteriorating but are rather improving progressively.

Athreya Committee Report

121. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Athreya Committee report on restructuring of DOT and MTNL has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, what is the stage of implementation of the recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the MTNL staff is still considered on deputation from DOT, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to pay deputation allowance to the employees from 1986 till the final absorption in MTNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d) The Athreya Committee Report on restructuring of Department of Telecom. is under active consideration of the Government. At present the staff working in the Delhi/Bombay Units of MTNL are on deemed deputation basis without deputation allowance.

Pension cases pending with Chief Post Master General, Calcutta

122. SHRI SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pension cases of the widows of erstwhile employees of the department have been pending for settlement for many years with the Chief Post Master General, West Bengal, Calcutta;

(b) whether Government propose to direct the authorities to dispose of these cases expeditiously; and

(c) what is the number of cases that have come to the notice during the last one year and the number of disposals made and the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trunk Call system in Andhra Pradesh

123. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are frequent complaints that trunk calls made to various places from Andhra Pradesh not linked by STD do not get through and trunk calls from outside the state are well attended and calls get through; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure better performance of Andhra Pradesh TELECOM in the matter of getting trunk calls getting through ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No Sir.